163

125. Distribution of Population by Earners, Working Dependents and Non-working Dependents.—The statistical table exhibits the proportions of earners, working dependents and non-working dependents per 100 of the total population. The number of earners per 100 of the total population is only 22 who are assisted in their work by 31 working dependents and are jointly responsible for supporting 47 non-working dependents. In the Jammu Province the earners augment their ranks by 2 per cent. by a corresponding reduction in the proportion of working dependents who compared to the State bet the burden of dependency carried by them remains unaltered.

Proportion of earners, working dependents and non-working dependents per 100 of the population.

Locality	Earners	Working Dependents	Non-working Dependents
[illegible]	22	31	47
[illegible]	24	31	45
[illegible]	21	31	48
[illegible]	20	31	49
[illegible]	20	30	50
[illegible]	20	30	50
[illegible]	20	31	49
[illegible]	20	30	50
[illegible]	20	32	48
[illegible]	22	31	47
[illegible]	22	31	47
[illegible]	22	31	47

independent contingency of agriculture and has the family more to fall back upon at all times. Whether [illegible] family encourages dependency is a debatable question and the statistics given in the above marginal table do not give us a decisive lead, for the only provinces where Hindus are fairly represented as the population of the State is the Jammu Province but the percentage of non-working dependents is uniform throughout the provinces. If we come to individual districts and look at the figures from the point of view of the preponderance of religious communities we may well select Chenani Jagir and Frontier Ilaqas as the two most suitable contrasts which enable us to decide the point. Chenani Jagir is predominated by Hindus while Frontier Ilaqas are almost entirely Muslim. Moreover, these two areas alone exhibit abnormal non-working dependency. But even here Frontier Ilaqas beat Chenani and stand foremost in the list of districts in this respect. Similarly Kashmir North, Kashmir South and Muzaffarabad districts where Muslim element is predominant do not show a better record than Kathua or Udhampur where the Hindus have a fair representation in population. The Gilgit district with a negligible minority of non-Muslims does not fare better and is on a par with Mirpur district in the Jammu Province where also the Muslim element is in a majority. Ladakh alone shows the smallest number of dependents and from the knowledge that we possess of the environs of Buddhist society we may safely conclude that their family life is more joint than that of the Hindus as they have no compunction even at having a joint wife or a joint husband as the case may be. The joint family cannot thus be treated as a weight-giver and seems to bear the blame of encouraging dependence unless it is found to bear it by assumption that even Muslims are biassed in its favour.

Religion also which has incidentally entered into the discussion offers no solution of the conundrum, except perhaps to the extent that of all religions Buddhism seems to encourage the luxuriant growth of the weeds of immunity to the least extent.

Climate and civilization, if considered as factors bearing on the problem are also not likely to lead us to any definite conclusion as Gilgit and Mirpur have extreme climatic differences but show an equal percentage of non-working dependency. Similarly there is little to choose between the Jammu and Kashmir Provinces.

We may now turn our attention to occupation and examine the figures in that light. It is no doubt true that we have not tabulated non-working dependents by occupational groups nor can we label a part of the State as predominantly industrial. For industry is still subordinated to agriculture everywhere. In spite of all this a rough comparison is possible and Kashmir Province can be taken as comparatively more industrial than the Jammu Province which is more agricultural. If agriculture cannot support a large number of non-working dependents the percentage in Mirpur district, Chenani Jagir, Poonch Jagir, Jammu district tallies admirably.

If industry on the other hand can support a larger number of non-working dependents the Kashmir Province ought to display some noticeable disparity from the figures of the Jammu Province but Kashmir South which is the most industrialised of the State districts has only 45 non-working dependents in a population of 100. And let it not be forgotten that quite a large number of its earners running into thousands had emigrated to the Punjab in winter when the Census was taken, who, if enumerated within the district, would have further lowered the proportion of non-working dependents.

Either then the theory does not square with facts or the distinction between working and non-working dependents introduced for the first time on the present occasion has not been properly grasped by the enumerating agency.

131. Adult Non-working Dependents.—In calculating adult non-working dependents, boys and girls below 10 and persons on the wrong side of sixty have been excluded. It is no doubt true that in several occupations a boy or girl of 11 cannot be classed as a working dependent or earner as for instance in Professions